

WHY BECOME A GRAND JUROR?



Those who are called to serve on the Grand Jury are part of an independent arm of the Judicial Branch.

They voluntarily enter this service with interest and curiosity in learning more about the administration and operation of the government in the county in which they live, in order to function as an investigatory body.

The Civil Grand Jury are citizens who are willing to give their time for the betterment of the government which, in truth, belongs to them.



Santa Clara County residents are urged to apply for service on the Grand Jury.

The application period opens in January, 2015.

Information may be obtained from:

Office of the Civil Grand Jury
Superior Court of California
County of Santa Clara
191 North First Street
San José, CA 95113

(408) 882-2721

CGJ@scscourt.org

www.scscourt.org

(click on Civil Grand Jury)

Santa Clara
County

CIVIL
GRAND
JURY



WHAT IS THE GRAND JURY?

The U.S. Constitution's Fifth Amendment and the California Constitution call for grand juries.

The Grand Jury is a part of the Judicial Branch of government, and is responsible for three main functions:

1. **Civil Watchdog**
2. **Citizen Complaints**
3. **Accusations**

COMMITMENT

Typically, Grand Jury service requires a time commitment of a **minimum of 20-25 hours per week** for a period of one fiscal year. Exact days and times are determined by each Civil Grand Jury.



QUALIFICATIONS

- ✓ Be a citizen of the United States;
- ✓ Be at least 18 years of age;
- ✓ Reside in Santa Clara County for at least one year prior to being selected;
- ✓ Be in possession of his or her natural faculties of sound judgment and good character;
- ✓ Possess a working knowledge of the English language;
- ✓ Be willing to complete a Statement of Economic Interests Form 700 within 30 days of impanelment, annually, and within 30 days of leaving office for public review;
- ✓ Not presently serving as a trial juror;
- ✓ Not having been discharged as a grand juror within one year of being selected;
- ✓ Not having been convicted of a felony or of malfeasance in office;
- ✓ Not presently serving as an elected official.

Grand Jury service calls for diligence, objectivity, and courage.

SELECTION

Superior Court Judges seek and interview volunteers to apply to serve on the Civil Grand Jury.

Thirty prospective grand jurors are nominated from the pool of applicants, divided among the county's supervisorial districts.

Nineteen members are randomly chosen, and are sworn in and given a description of their duties and responsibilities by the Presiding Judge.

REMUNERATION AND SUPPORT

Grand Jurors receive a per diem of \$20 for meetings and Grand Jury activities, as well as mileage reimbursement.

An orientation program about county and city government is provided to the Grand Jury. Grand Jurors also receive support services from Court and County staff.